

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 01983 170011Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01
ARA-10 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /143 W
-----119427 170135Z /70

P 170012Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1397
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01983

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PDEU, XI, FR
SUBJECT: THE WESTERN SAHARA CONFLICT: FRENCH MISSION
COMMENTS

1. DURING A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, FRENCH MISSION COUNSELLOR GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD RAISED THE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE BEST WAY TO MANEUVER THIS PROBLEM TOWARD ANY KIND OF SOLUTION. FRENCH MILITARY INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO AIR SUPPORT FLOWN WITHIN NAURITANIAN TERRITORY. GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD SAID THE CURRENT PARIS CALCULATION IS THAT LITTLE FURTHER CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROBLEM UNTIL THE OAU SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR KHARTOUM IN JULY. FRANCE EXPECTS THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL BE DISCUSSED, WITH THE LIKELY RESULT THAT THE AFRICANS WILL ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL ANY DIVISIVE DECISION. FRANCE EXPECTS THAT THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR THIS YEAR IS ANOTHER POSTPONE-MENT OF A UN CONFRONTATION OVER THIS PROBLEM.

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2. GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD SAID HIS MINISTRY HAS NOT COME UP WITH A PERSUASIVE COURSE OF ACTION TO RECOMMEND EITHER TO ITS ALLIES OR THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. HE MENTIONED THAT IN THEIR INTERNAL CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE OPTIONS, HOWEVER, HIS MINISTER HAD SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A PLEBESCITE ON THE PATTERN OF THE

SPANISH PLEBISCITE, CONDUCTED WITH UN MONITORING PARTICI-
PATION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FRANCE HAS PROBLEMS OF
PRINCIPLE NO MATTER WHICH WAY THEY TURN IN CONSIDERING
THIS PROBLEM. MCHENRY

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: MOPS, PDEV, XI, WI, FR
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